

[Marine Workers]

Belief and customs — Folkstuff 14 Copy - 1

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Saul Levitt

ADDRESS 27 Hamilton Terrace, N.Y.C.

DATE March 1, 1939

SUBJECT [Marine Workers?]

1. Date and time of interview February 28, 1939
2. Place of interview IWW Headquarters on Broad Street near South Street.
3. Name and address of informant Carmody, (Left Rudder) Seamen's Church Institute
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Forty Fathoms (Victor Campbell) National Maritime Union.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Library of Congress

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Saul Levitt

ADDRESS 27 Hamilton Terrace, N.Y.C.

DATE March 1, 1939

SUBJECT Marine Workers IWW Headquarters; Left Rudder and other seamen. LEFT
RUDDER AT HEADQUARTERS ON BROAD STREET

What's gonna become of d' workers? The human race is gonna deteryarate if we don't do something. I am getting pessimistis about the workin' man. He is funder behind now then he was in '25 pertickaler on the waterfront. It is all mess an' confusion an' chaos. It's a veritable Garden of Eden for fakers on d' waterfront. D' bulshittin' is so t'ick you can't cut it wid' a fireax. Onct d' seamen had hisself a seachest. Then around the war he carried his luggage in a canvas sea bag. Now nine outta ten go to sea wid deir lugguag wrapped in a sheet uv the New Yawwk Times. D' seamen is got certificates today. An A.B. is a guy that got fifty tousand certificates wid im. He's gotta have his strike clearance. Yes, and he's gotta have his AB an' his Lifeboas Lifeboat an' when he goes to d' Doghouse, he gotta have a certificate fer to go to sleep and he's gotta a certificate fer to get his breakfast. He is d' most certifaycated wage-earner in d' United States. These hackies holler about deir certificates. Fingerprints. Pictures, Mealtickets. That is the seamen. At one time we didn't need nothin' to go to sea wid'. Now we got fifty tousand certificates. D' seamen t'day is

Library of Congress

uv a dif'rent caliber. Now d, 2 young fellers get themselves bob-haired partners an' live uptown in apartments. It's too sooperfishal. Entirely. But d' seamen got one t'ing which is still d' heritage of d' seamen. He got his own freemasonry which is more'n any charity. Y' unndrstan' — no mutchal aid s'sieties. D' seamen is a waterfront tourist that don't go uptown much. He likes to stick around sailortown. I'm on me way t' the Doghouse now. D' certificate fer to go to sleep is waitin' fer me. It's all mess an' confusion an' chaos.

***** MARINE WOBBLY HALL TALK

Hello, feller, if yer a friend of the workin' man ye can come right in an' make yerself at home. There's the time up there. It says Time to Organize. That wooden shoe up there onna ledge that's a sabot. It's fer sabotage.

Hey, fellow worker when I hear [they?] say Friend of Labor I know it's one of them goddam labor leaders that wants to handle things for the seamen. When I hear they say that why that's the time to get them down a dark alley. Class cullaborationists every goddam one of 'em.

Yeah, write to your Congressman he'll take care of ye.

They got the seamen tied up in knots. Do they draw up a contract for seamen? It's divisional as hell. I meet a seaman an' he says we're getting our contract drawn up now. What contract is that, I says. Why, that's tankersman contract. Dye get that? It's a tankersman contract.

An, they got different wage-scales onna Gulf Coast and onna Atlantic Coast.

Shut up an' let me explain to this fellow-worker. It's 3 a tankersman contract. Next it'll be another kinda speshill contract. This ocean is Joe Curran's ocean and the other one is Lundberg's ocean.

Library of Congress

Yeah, an whose ocean is it gawn throough the Canal.

Shut up an' let me explain to this fellow worker.

Whose ocean is it gawn through the Miraflores Lock.

Hahah, I'm gonna write a litter to my Congressman.

D'Wobbly is a missionary to d' workin man like d' old missionaries wuz to d' headin's an' d' cannibals.

I'm gonna write a litter — the trouble wit' the workin' man he ain't got a line.

Shut up an' let me explain. We don't want any leaders. Sure we got leaders but they're like bookeepers an' accountants.

The Boshies got leaders an' they wreck every goddam union in the country.

They're like bookkeepers an' accountants. Y' see that feller typing up in front there wit' one finger? He just runs things like an office.

It ain't no joke bein' a Wobbly leader, dye remember when I was seckertery uv that headquarters I couldn't get any carfare.

Who d' hell wants leaders when it's d' direct acshun that pradooces results. In Frisco in Thirty Four is wuz direct acshun an' Rolph was governor, he was a reactionary sonafabitch, wasn't he? No Y' got the Union an' [crumbs?] crumbs off d' table of capital. They go downna Washington an' talk to the guvvernmin'. If that ain't a helluva way to produce results. Liberals an' progressives. It's like that story of d' woman that listened to a guy. Once she listened she was sejuiced. That's the way it is wit' these liberals and class cullaborationists. If ye listen to 'em yer sejuiced.

Library of Congress

He's a white collar man an' they're new in d' labor movement. hey like to write letters to Congressmen.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

It's direct askshun' all over again. Drop aroun' again, fellow-worker. Yeah, that's the right time up there. Time to organize.